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REMARKS

In order to promote administrative efficiency and better communication, the Examiner is invited to make suggestions at any time during the proceedings, via phone, fax or e-mail, whenever such suggestions are within the Examiner's discretion as an aid to placing the claims in order for allowance in a timely manner.

Concerning the Interview:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his time passed during an interview to discuss some of the issues raised by the prior amendment and remarks. It is now apparent to Applicant that perhaps some confusion exists due to the apparent ambiguity of the term "relief surfaces". In French, the language of the priority filing, "reliefs" are the high surfaces on the roll or plate that are left after cutting away surrounding material. "Reliefs" in English can perhaps cause confusion as this may be considered as being the "low" surfaces surrounding the protruding surfaces. Consequently, Applicant hereby amends the claims to define the relief surfaces at the "protruding" relief surfaces.

This potential ambiguity being clarified, Applicant wishes to re-emphasize that the inking performed by Applicant's invention is to transport ink to a printing plate, which will then lay the ink down on the substrate to be printed, while Germann teaches a printing plate itself. The differences are known to one of ordinary skill in the art, namely, that the inking plates are made of differing materials, having differing hardnesses and have protruding relief surfaces for transporting ink to a transfer surface and not laying ink down on the substrate to be printed (while a printing plate transfers the ink it receives directly on the substrate to be printed).

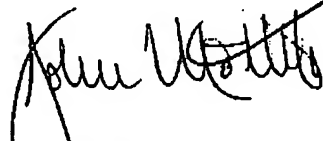
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Conclusion

Applicant has made a diligent effort to advance the prosecution of this application by amending the claims and including remarks which show how the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims, as previously presented, and more clearly as now amended, are now in condition for allowance. No new matter has been entered by this amendment. Any limitations to the claims are made solely for the purpose of expediting the prosecution of the application and, unless otherwise expressly stated, are not made to narrow, vis-à-vis the prior art, the scope of protection which any subsequently issuing patent might afford. Again, if the Examiner has further questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at phone 011-4122-747-7849, fax at 011-4122-346-8960 (Geneva is 6 hours ahead of Eastern STD Time), or e-mail at patents@bugnion.ch.

Applicant petitions the Commissioner for an Extension of Time under 37 CFR §1.136 for a period of 0 months and the Undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fee or credit any overpayment of any fee under 37 CFR §1.16 and §1.17 which may be required in this application to the deposit account of BUGNION S.A., no. 50-0800.

Respectfully submitted,



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